

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following public comment was made:

➤ Robert Smirlock made the following comments:

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, I presented information to this board stating that the revenue neutral rate included as part of this year’s budget was incorrect. The response by the county manager was that the state mandated rate formula was used.

Since that meeting, I have researched the statute as well as contacted the Local Government Commission in order to fully understand this rate calculation. The LGC was very helpful, including sending me a spreadsheet to calculate this rate.

Using budget data from the county website for the past eight years, I calculated the rate using this spreadsheet. The results show an average annual growth rate of 1.6%, creating a revenue-neutral rate of 46.5 cents per \$100. This is shown on page one of the handout.

I also prepared a second sheet. This page shows what the growth rate would have to be for the past eight years in order to justify the revenue-neutral rate of 49.7 cents as stated by the county manager. The average ANNUAL growth rate would have had to have been 8.5% each year, or in other words a total growth of 68% in the tax base over the last 8 years. There are no numbers, budgeted or audited, that comes even close to this rate of growth.

I make this offer. I would be happy to meet anyone from the county finance office to go over these calculations so it can be shown how the county arrived at their rate. If I am wrong somehow, I will come back to this board and offer an apology. However, if I’m correct, I ask that the budget ordinance be amended to reflect the proper revenue-neutral rate. This is allowed by statute since the ACTUAL tax rate would not be changed, just the calculated revenue neutral rate.

I very much would like to resolve this issue in this manner, since it involves less public embarrassment for the party who is wrong – be it me or the county. However, if you decide to decline this offer, I will be sending this information to the NC Office of the State Auditor.

The intent of the revenue-neutral rate statute is specifically designed to show the taxpayer how much taxes are being increased without a reassessment having taken place. There is a large difference between the county’s stated 4.5% tax increase and my calculations at 12%. I hope this board will share my interest in showing what the true increase actually is.

Ronald Smirlock [rsmirlock@gmail.com](mailto:rsmirlock@gmail.com) (252) 404-1071

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further comments or business to discuss, the Regular Meeting was adjourned around 7:25 p.m. on motion made by T. Kyle Jones, seconded by Timothy J. Corprew and unanimously approved by the Board.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk to the Board

\*\*\*\*\*

**WORK SESSION**  
July 15, 2024  
7:00 p.m.

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners Work Session on July 15, 2024 was cancelled.

\*\*\*\*\*

**REGULAR METING**  
August 5, 2024  
7:00 p.m.

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Monday, August 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Perquimans County Library located at 514 S. Church Street, Hertford, NC 27944. Prior to this Regular Meeting, the Board of Commissioners reconvened the Board of Adjustment to consider a Zoning Variance ZVA-24-01, requested by John and Regina Moser. The Planning Department prepared the Minutes for this hearing. The Planning Department will prepare the Minutes of these Board of Adjustment meetings and have them approved prior to the September 3, 2024 meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman Charles Woodard, Vice Chairman  
Timothy J. Corprew Joseph W. Hoffer (*arrived at 6:55 p.m.*)  
T. Kyle Jones James W. Ward

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Hackney High, County Attorney Mary P. Hunnicutt, Clerk to the Board  
Robert Daniel, County Attorney Frank Heath, County Manager

Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order. Commissioner Woodard gave the invocation and Chairman Nelson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Nelson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**AGENDA**

Chairman Nelson stated that a copy of the amended Agenda was at their seats tonight. Mr. Nelson asked if there were any other changes to the Agenda. Mary Hunnicutt, Clerk to the Board, explained that Jalisa Montaque will not be introduced tonight because she resigned from her position. James W. Ward made a motion to approve the amended Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Charles Woodard, and unanimously approved by the Board.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Nelson asked if there were any items that the Board wished to remove from the Consent Agenda to discuss. There being none, James W. Ward made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Charles Woodard and unanimously approved by the Board.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the following meetings were approved by the Board:
  - a. June 3, 2024 Regular Meeting - June 17, 2024 Special Called Meeting - June 17, 2024 Regular Work Session Meeting (cancelled)
  - b. July 1, 2024 Regular Meeting - July 15, 2024 Regular Work Session Meeting (cancelled)

2. **Tax Refund Approvals:**

**Tax Refunds (Perquimans County):**

<b>Cox, William</b> -----	<b>\$175.99</b>
Situs error; incorrect address. Account No. 0076203432-2023-2023-0000-05.	
<b>Pickard, Terrie Luanne</b> -----	<b>\$211.64</b>
Plate issued in error. Account No. 78646281.	
<b>Pickard, Terrie Luanne</b> -----	<b>\$254.49</b>
Situs error. Account No. 78646281.	
<b>Irwin, Sr., Thomas Charles</b> -----	<b>\$218.07</b>
Vehicle sold; 11-month refund. Account No. 67143165.	

3. **Personnel Matters:** The following personnel matters were approved by the Board:

Employee Name	Employee Job Title	Action Required	Grade/Step	New Salary	Effective Date
Tracy Norman *	Income Maintenance Caseworker II	Appointment	63/1	\$36,354	08/05/2024
Kaelyn Melton	Full-Time EMT	Appointment	64/1	\$37,990	08/01/2024
Brooke Perry	Full-Time EMT	Appointment	64/1	\$37,990	08/01/2024
Corbin Nixon	Full-Time EMT	Appointment	64/1	\$37,990	08/01/2024
Brayden Clemens	Full-Time EMT	Appointment	64/1	\$37,990	08/01/2024
Amanda Diaz	Part-Time/Fill-In AEMT	Appointment	66/2	\$20.44/hr.	08/01/2024
Jasmine Ratcliff	Part-Time/Fill-In EMT	Appointment	64/1	\$18.26/hr.	08/01/2024
Logan Boyce	Part-Time/Fill-In EMT	Appointment	64/2	\$18.72/hr.	08/01/2024
Lauren Barmer	Full-Time Certified Telecommunications II	Appointment	64/5	\$41,884	08/01/2024
Courtney Langley	Full-Time Certified Telecommunications II	Appointment	64/1	\$37,990	08/01/2024
Rhianna Tucker	Full-Time Certified Telecommunications II	Appointment	64/1	\$37,990	08/01/2024
Herman Weiss	Part-Time/Fill-In Certified Telecommunications II	Appointment	66/9	\$24.24/hr.	08/01/2024
Ronald Stites	Veterans Services Officer	Appointment	n/g	\$8,458.36	08/01/2024
Erica Cartwright	Data Manager – Center for Active Living	Appointment	60/5	\$35,123	08/19/2024
Erica Cartwright	Deputy Director – Board of Elections	Resignation			08/19/2024
John A. Downum	Athletic Program Supervisor	Resignation			08/02/2024
Shellie Hurdle	Seasonal Tax Lister	Resignation			05/31/2024
John Preston Spear	Veterans Services Officer	Resignation			07/31/2024
Jalisa Montaque	Income Maintenance Caseworker II	Termination			07/18/2024
Brett Damron	Part-Time/Fill-In EMT	Removed from Roster			07/01/2024
Zack Hudgins	Part-Time/Fill-In Paramedic	Removed from Roster			07/01/2024
Martin Surface	Part-Time/Fill-In Paramedic	Removed from Roster			07/01/2024
Melissa Hand	Part-Time/Fill-In Certified Telecommunicator I	Removed from Roster			08/01/2024

**\*Employee declined job offer after Agenda Packets were prepared.**

4. **Step/Merit Increases:**

Department Name	Employee Name	Classification	Grade/Step	New Salary	Effective Date
County Manager	Rhonda Repanshek	Planner	78/4	\$75,722	07/01/2024*
Telecommunications	Morgan Story	TC-I	64/2	\$38,939	08/01/2024
Social Services	Corrine Brinkley	IMC II	63/2	\$37,264	08/01/2024
Social Services	Joelisa Drew	IMC II	63/2	\$37,264	08/01/2024
Social Services	Tiffany Maupin	IMC II	63/2	\$37,264	08/01/2024
Social Services	Julie Shreckengast	IMC III – Lead Worker	65/3	\$41,685	08/01/2024
Social Services	Brianna Williams	IMC II	63/1	\$36,354	08/01/2024
Social Services	Denise Stallings	Income Maintenance Technician	59/5	\$33,610	07/01/2024*
EMS	Chloe Sehlmeier	Full-Time EMT	64/1	\$37,990	07/01/2024*
Sheriff's Office	Damon Sizemore	Certified Deputy	68/6	\$51,197	08/01/2024
Sheriff's Office	William Wright	Certified Deputy	68/3	\$47,569	08/01/2024

**\*Back dated due to missed merit increase previously.**

5. **Budget Amendment No. 2 & 3:** The following budget amendments were approved by the Board:

**BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 2  
GENERAL FUND**

CODE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF CODE	AMOUNT	
		INCREASE	DECREASE
10-362-000	Senior Center - Donations/Local	5,198	
10-660-311	Senior Center - Donations/Local	5,198	

**EXPLANATION:** To amend FY 24/25 budget to include local funds/donations as received to be used for the Center of Active Living.

**BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 3  
GENERAL FUND**

CODE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF CODE	AMOUNT	
		INCREASE	DECREASE
10-360-008	Dispatch - Cybersecurity Risk Initiative	24,000	
10-511-348	Dispatch - Cybersecurity Risk Initiative	24,000	

**EXPLANATION:** To amend FY 24/25 budget to include Cybersecurity Risk Initiative grant funding.

6. **Board Resignations & Reappointments:** The following board resignations/reappointments were approved by the Board:

Name	Board/Committee	Action Taken	Term	Effective Date
High, Hackney	County Attorney	Reappointment	2 yrs.	08/01/2024
Leigh, Fondella	Social Services Board (1 <sup>st</sup> term)	Appointment	3 yrs.	08/01/2024

7. **Miscellaneous Documents:** The following miscellaneous documents were approved by the Board:

- a. **Proclamation – Child Support Awareness Month:** Angela Jordan, Social Services Director, has requested that the Board adopt the following Proclamation proclaiming August, 2024 as Child Support Awareness Month. The Board approved the following Proclamation:



MARY P. HUNNICUTT  
CLERK TO BOARD  
W. FRANK HEATH, III  
COUNTY MANAGER

**PERQUIMANS COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

P.O. BOX 45  
HERTFORD, NORTH CAROLINA 27944  
TELEPHONE: 1-252-426-7550

State of North Carolina  
County of Perquimans  
**Proclamation  
Child Support Awareness Month  
August 2024**

WALLACE E. NELSON  
CHAIRMAN  
CHARLES WOODARD  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
TIMOTHY J. CORPREW  
JOSEPH W. HOFFLER  
T. KYLE JONES  
JAMES W. WARD  
W. HACKNEY HIGH, JR.  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

**WHEREAS** Perquimans County is recognizing August as Child Support Awareness Month, and reaffirms its commitment to strengthening Perquimans Counties families by providing child support services to improve the economic stability and well-being of children; and

**WHEREAS**, in State Fiscal Year 2023-24, more than \$1 million in child support was collected from parents of Perquimans Counties children, and

**WHEREAS**, there are nearly 468 child support orders in place, working to ensure that children receive financial support from their parents; and

**WHEREAS**, the court must order either parent to obtain and maintain medical health insurance coverage for a child if it is actually and currently available to the parent at a reasonable cost.

**WHEREAS** Child Support Awareness Month salutes the diligent working parents who spend time with their child and who make regular child support payments, to safeguard their children's future; and

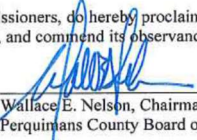
**WHEREAS**, strengthening individuals and families promotes the safety and well-being of children, provides stability, improves the lives of children, and provides opportunities for families to be able to enhance their children's futures; and

**WHEREAS**, children who do not receive adequate financial and emotional support from their parents may experience greater difficulty in becoming healthy, happy, and productive citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, many concerned and dedicated judges, district attorneys, clerks of court, sheriffs' personnel, and child support professionals work to establish and enforce child support orders for Perquimans County children, one of our counties most vital resources.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, We, the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim August 2024, as "CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH" in Perquimans County, and commend its observance to all citizens.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,**

  
Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman  
Perquimans County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

  
Mary P. Hunnicutt  
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners



**Perquimans County's Vision:**

*To be a community of opportunity in which to live, learn, work, prosper and play.*

- b. **Surety Bond Broker Contract with Marsh USA, LLC for FY 2024-2025:** This contract is between Perquimans County and Marsh USA, LLC to handle our surety bonds. Board action is being requested.
- c. **Home & Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) Documentation for FY 2024-2025:** The Board unanimously approved the HCCBG documentation for FY 2024-2025.
- d. **Memorial Proclamation:** It was requested by Commissioner Hoffler to forward a Proclamation honoring the memory and service of Laura Elizabeth Cornelia Holley Hudson. The Proclamation was read at her funeral. This is for information purposes only.

**PROCLAMATION IN APPRECIATION  
OF THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF  
LAURA ELIZABETH CORNELIA HOLLEY HUDSON**

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Perquimans County are deeply saddened by the death of Laura Elizabeth Cornelia Holley Hudson; and

**WHEREAS**, Laura Elizabeth Cornelia Holley Hudson was born in Perquimans County, North Carolina on March 7, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Laura Elizabeth Cornelia Holley Hudson graduated from Hertford High School, married the late Maurice Holley on December 29, 1940, and had a daughter, Juanita Maurice Holley; and

**WHEREAS**, Laura joined the First Missionary Church in Hertford North Carolina in 1935 and was the oldest member until her passing. While a member of the First Missionary Church, she served on the Pastor's Aide, the Senior Choir, and the J. H. London Crusaders; and

**WHEREAS**, Laura was a member of the following organizations: Albemarle Cosmetology Club Chapter #73, Progressive Knights #1 of Hertford, NC, Social Light Club, Perquimans County Credit Union, Perquimans County Library, and NAACP.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners for the County of Perquimans, on behalf of the citizens of Perquimans County:

1. Hereby express our joy in having known Laura Elizabeth Cornelia Holley Hudson and our pride in being able to honor her for all that she did and stood for; and

2. Hereby express our deepest sympathy to the members of the family of Laura Elizabeth Cornelia Holley Hudson and gratitude to you for sharing so much of her life with and for the benefit of us all.

This 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2024.

W. Frank Heath, III, County Manager  
Perquimans County

ATTEST:

Mary P. Hunnicutt, Clerk to the Board

SEAL

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

- **Introduction of New Employee:** The following new employees were introduced tonight to the Board:

Department Head	Employee Name	Employee Job Title	Effective Date
Angela Jordan, Social Services Director	Crystal Bowe	IMC I working against IMC II	06/012024
Angela Jordan, Social Services Director	Jalisa Montague*	IMC I working against IMC II	06/012024

Department Head	Employee Name	Employee Job Title	Effective Date
Julie Solesbee, Assistant Emergency Services Director	Rhianna Tucker	Full-Time Non-Certified Telecommunicator	05/01/2024
Julie Solesbee, Assistant Emergency Services Director	Taylor R. Russell	Full-Time Certified Telecommunicator III	07/01/2024
<b>*Ms. Montague no longer works for Perquimans County.</b>			

**COMMISSIONER’S CONCERNS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following commissioner’s concerns/committee report was given:

- **Commissioner Corprew:** Mr. Corprew stated that he had noticed that the Marine Industrial Park section of the Commerce Center had high grass growth and asked that it be mowed. County Manager Heath said that he would ask the same individual to cut it that cut the proposed Intermediate School site.

**UPDATES FROM COUNTY MANAGER**

County Manager Heath presented the following updates:

- **Water Best Utility Management Practices:** County Manager Heath explained that the Division of Water Infrastructure assists with applications for Water Grants and they have requested that our committee consist of two commissioners, the county manager, and the water supervisor. Currently, County Manager Heath, Mr. Lokies (Water Supervisor) and Chairman Nelson have been attending these training sessions. They are asking for one more commissioner to serve. Commissioner Ward said that he would be willing to serve. Mr. Heath thanked him for agreeing to serve and said that he would forward the training dates and times to him currently have three individuals working on this
- **School Grant:** Mr. Heath informed the Board that the Board of Education had received the additional \$12 million grant to build the intermediate school. He also reported that they will begin doing the site work.
- **Boat Ramp:** Mr. Heath explained that several have complained about the narrow turn at the boat ramp site. He has discussed that with NCDOT and they should have a contract soon to fix it.
- **Ribbon Cutting at Board of Elections Building:** Mr. Heath said that they held the ribbon cutting for the Board of Elections Building on July 17, 2024 and that it was well attended.
- **School System Request:** Danny Gregory from the schools needs about twelve loads of dirt to build up the fields. He asked Mr. Heath if he could use some of the dirt from the Marine Basin. He approved his request for the dirt.
- **Tax & Finance Software Conversion:** County Manager Heath explained that the finance software conversion is about completed. He thanked Tracy Mathews, Helen Hunter, and Casey White for their hard work in the process. The Tax Office will be next which will take a little longer to complete.

**BOARD VACANCIES**

The following Boards have vacant seats that the Board needs to fill:

1. **Community Advisory Committee:** Mr. Heath reported that there have been no new applications received for this Board. We still need three more members. We will continue to place the ad on the County website.
2. **Senior Tar Heel Legislature Delegate & Alternate:** Mr. Heath reported that, last month, the Board appointed Mr. Thomas St. John as the Perquimans County’s Senior Tarheel Delegate. We still need to appoint an alternate in case he is unable to attend the meeting. We also need to have a member to be appointed to the Senior Tarheel Regional Legislature Advisory Board. Mary Hunnicutt, Clerk to the Board, stated that Mr. St. John may have someone to be the alternate delegate. He will let us know soon. He also said that he wanted to introduce himself to the Board and provide them with an Update. Mr. Heath will be in touch with him soon to set up a time. In the meantime, we will continue to advertise these appointments on the County website.
3. **Recreation Advisory Board – New Hope Representative:** Earlier in the meeting, the Board accepted the resignation of Chad Nixon, the New Hope Representative on the Recreation Advisory Committee. Mary Hunnicutt, Clerk to the Board, has reviewed our Volunteer Applications and did not find anyone that requested to serve on the Recreation Advisory Committee that is not already serving on the Committee. The individual will need to be from the New Hope area. Chairman Nelson asked the Board and the public to provide a name for this position. Commissioner Jones said that the may have someone that would be willing to serve. Mr. Nelson asked him to contact Mary Hunnicutt to complete the Statement of Interest to Serve.

**SALE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT**

Ms. Hunnicutt notified the Board that the vehicle did not sell this month. It will be handled next month. No action needed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments made.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further comments or business to discuss, the Regular Meeting was adjourned around 7:25 p.m. on motion made by Joseph W. Hoffler, seconded by Charles Woodard and unanimously approved by the Board.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk to the Board

\*\*\*\*\*